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NO. 362
AUG.
BAT MAN
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RIDDLE ME THIS: WHO SAYS CRIME DOESN'T PAY?
I DO!

THIS IS OLIVIA ORTEGA FOR SPOTLIGHT NEWS.
GRAPE GROWERS CLAIM THIS YEAR WILL BE A VINTAGE SEASON, SO WE'VE COME TO THE UPSTATE ROMA WINERY TO SEE HOW IT'S ALL DONE...
ASIDE FROM THE HARVESTING, PRESSING AND FERMENTING OF THE GRAPES, IS THERE ANY SECRET TO THE ART OF WINE-MAKING?
A SMALL THING, MS. ORTEGA, BUT VERY IMPORTANT...

THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE AGING PERIOD EACH BOTTLE IS TWISTED DAILY, FORCING THE SEDIMENT TO COLLECT ON THE CORK--
--RATHER THAN ON THE BOTTOM TO SPOIL THE FLAVOR, CLARITY AND TEXTURE.
THE FRENCH CALL THIS PROCESS REMUAGE--BUT IT IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS RIDDLING THE WINE.

A VIDEO CREW -- THAT'S IT!
ALL THESE MONTHS RIDDLING WINE AS THERAPY, TRYING TO PUZZLE OUT A NEW CRIME -- AND FINALLY I'VE FOUND IT!
THANK YOU, SIGNOR PETRELLI, FOR YOUR HELP IN CREATING THIS VINTAGE DOCUMENTARY.
AND, SUDDENLY INSPIRED EDWARD NIGMA HALTS HIS RIDDLING--
HEY-- WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OFF FOR GREENER CLADSTERS.
J-ESBOS
--TO AGAIN BECOME THE RIDDLER.
FROM SEDIMENTS OF CORK TO SENTIMENTS OF CRIME--
--FOR BAFFLING THE BATMAN, NOW IS THE TIME!
HA HA
HA HA

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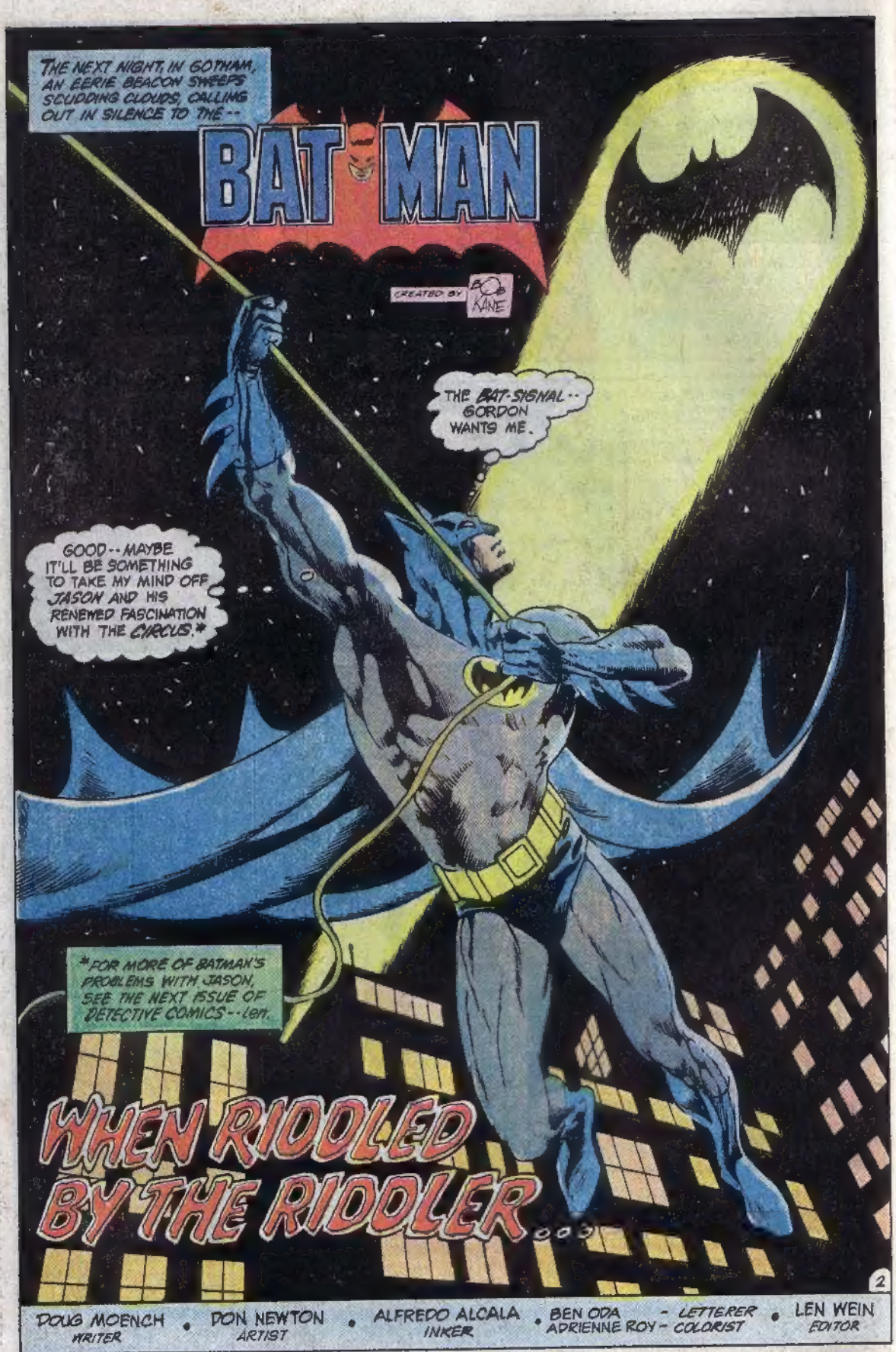
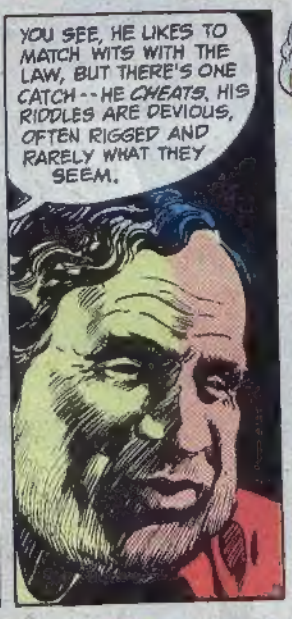
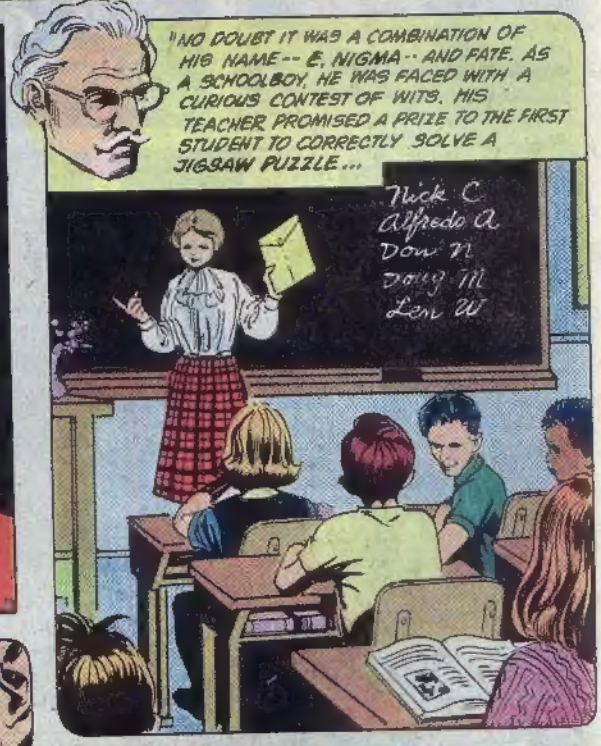
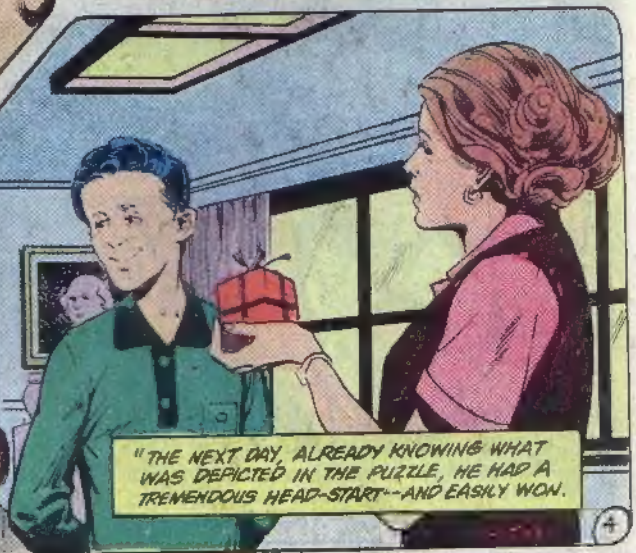

THE NEXT NIGHT, IN GOTHAM, AN EERIE BEACON SWEEPS SCUDDING CLOUDS, CALLING OUT IN SILENCE TO THE --
BAT-MAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
THE BAT-SIGNAL -- GORDON WANTS ME.
GOOD -- MAYBE IT'LL BE SOMETHING TO TAKE MY MIND OFF JASON AND HIS RENEWED FASCINATION WITH THE CIRCUS.*
*FOR MORE OF BATMAN'S PROBLEMS WITH JASON, SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS -- Len.
WHEN RIDDLED BY THE RIDDLER...
2
DOUG MOENCH WRITER • DON NEWTON ARTIST • ALFREDO ALCALA INKER • BEN ODA ADRIENNE ROY - LETTERER COLORIST • LEN WEIN EDITOR

POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
LISTEN, GORDON, I DON'T HAFTA REMIND YA THAT MAYOR HILL APPOINTED ME TO BE YOUR ASSISTANT...
...AND AS YOUR ASSISTANT, I GOT A PERFECT RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT'S IN THAT BOX!
AS LONG AS I'M THE COMMISSIONER, BULLOCK, I'LL DECIDE WHO GETS TO SEE WHAT.
TRYIN' TO HIDE SOMETHIN', GORDON? I'VE ALREADY GOT ENOUGH AMMO FOR THAT HEARING NEXT WEEK--IF I WAS YOU, FROM NOW ON, I'D PLAY EVERYTHING STRICTLY BY THE BOOK.
AND WITHHOLDIN' EVIDENCE FROM FELLOW POLICE OFFICERS IS HARDLY BY THE--
OH, ALL RIGHT-- THIS IS WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOX.
ANOTHER BOX?
EXACTLY-- SENT TO THE BATMAN IN CARE OF MY OFFICE, AND OBVIOUSLY FROM THE RIDDLER.
THE RIDDLER, HUH?
AND FOR THE BATMAN. NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T WANNA SHARE IT WITH ME. YOU'RE GONNA TEAM UP WITH THAT VIGILANTE AGAIN TO--
HE'S NOT A VIGILANTE, BULLOCK.
HE'S FULLY EMPOWERED BY MY OFFICE TO SERVE AS A SPECIAL UPHOLDER OF THE LAW!
YOUR OFFICE. THAT COULD CHANGE, GORDON, IF ME AN' HILL HAVE OUR WAY.
THE BOX WAS SENT TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
THAT MAKES IT POLICE BUSINESS, AND YOU'RE GONNA BRING ME IN WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
3

NOW... I'VE HEARD OF THE RIDDLER--WHO HASN'T?--BUT I NEVER BEEN IN ON ONE OF HIS CASES.
SO WE'RE GONNA PLAY A LITTLE GAME CALLED 'SHARIN' INFO-WITH-YER-FELLOW-OFFICERS.'
JUST WHO IS THE RIDDLER? WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
VERY WELL, BULLOCK, WE'LL PLAY IT BY THE BOOK... FOR NOW. THE RIDDLER IS PRIMARILY A THIEF, THOUGH I DOUBT MURDER IS BEYOND HIM.


YOU SEE, HE LIKES TO MATCH WITS WITH THE LAW, BUT THERE'S ONE CATCH--HE CHEATS. HIS RIDDLES ARE DEVIOUS, OFTEN RIGGED AND RARELY WHAT THEY SEEM.


"NO DOUBT IT WAS A COMBINATION OF HIS NAME--E. NIGMA--AND FATE, AS A SCHOOLBOY, HE WAS FACED WITH A CURIOUS CONTEST OF WITS. HIS TEACHER PROMISED A PRIZE TO THE FIRST STUDENT TO CORRECTLY SOLVE A JIGSAW PUZZLE...
Nick C
Alfredo A
Don N
Doug M
Len W



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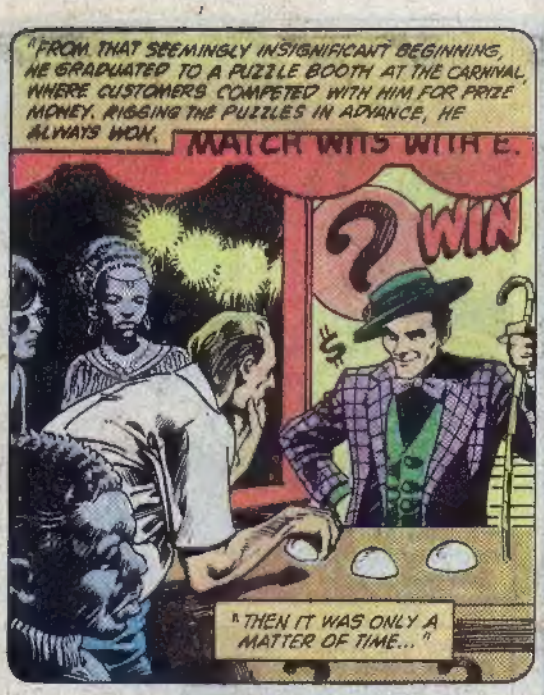
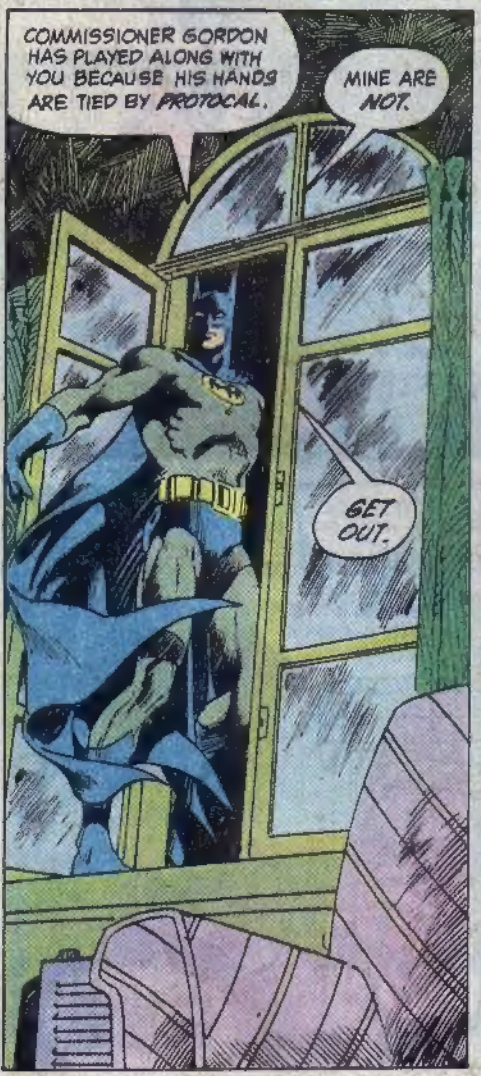
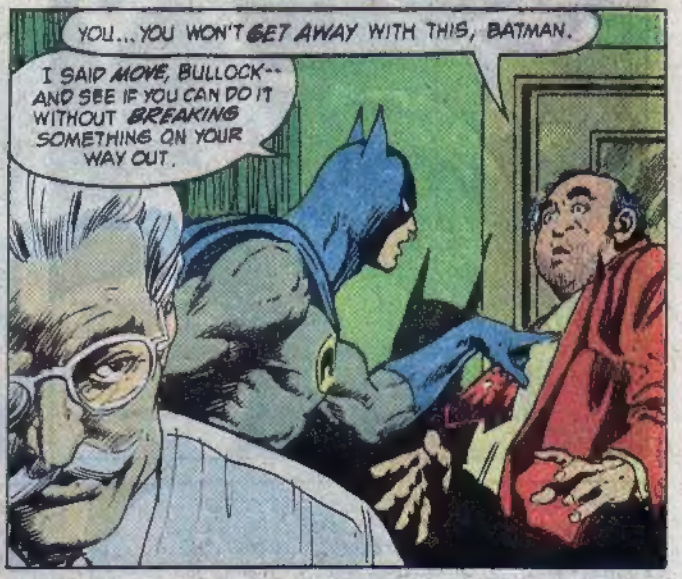
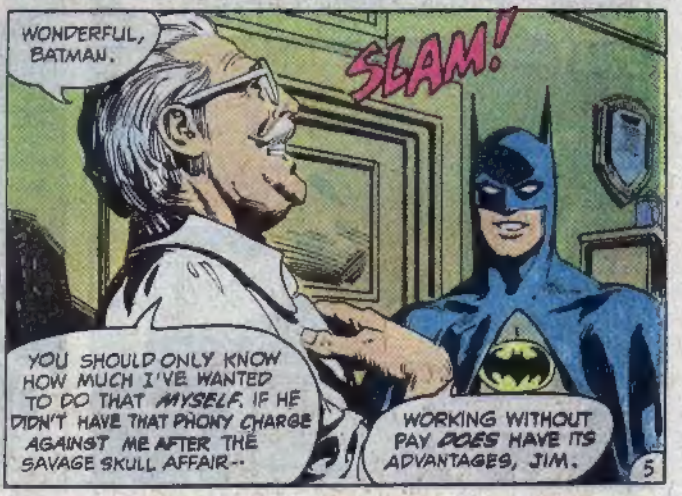

"FROM THAT SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT BEGINNING, HE GRADUATED TO A PUZZLE BOOTH AT THE CARNIVAL WHERE CUSTOMERS COMPETED WITH HIM FOR PRIZE MONEY. RIGGING THE PUZZLES IN ADVANCE, HE ALWAYS WON.
MATCH WITS WITH E.
? WIN
"THEN IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME..."

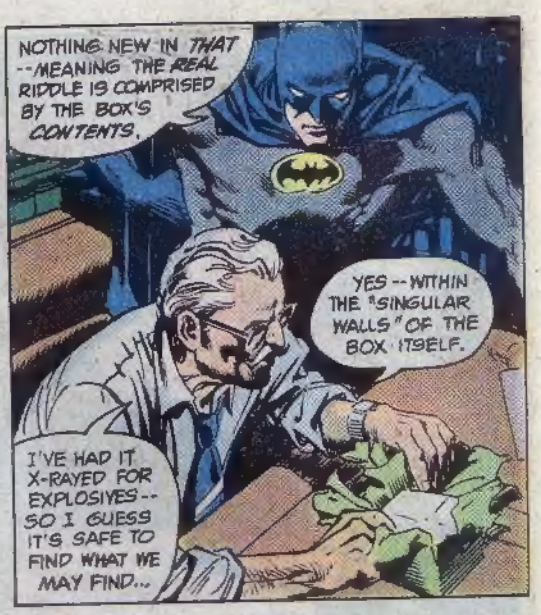
DISSATISFIED WITH SUCH SMALL PICKINGS--AND CONVINCED HE WAS SOME KIND OF CONUNDRUM CHAMPION--HE DECIDED TO COMMIT PUZZLE CRIMES IN A DUEL OF WITS WITH THE LAW.
ALL RIGHT--AND THAT BOX HOLDS THE RIDDLE TIPPING OFF HIS NEXT CRIME.
SO OPEN IT.
I THINK NOT, BULLOCK.


COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS PLAYED ALONG WITH YOU BECAUSE HIS HANDS ARE TIED BY PROTOCAL.
MINE ARE NOT.
GET OUT.


YOU...YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, BATMAN.
I SAID MOVE, BULLOCK--AND SEE IF YOU CAN DO IT WITHOUT BREAKING SOMETHING ON YOUR WAY OUT.

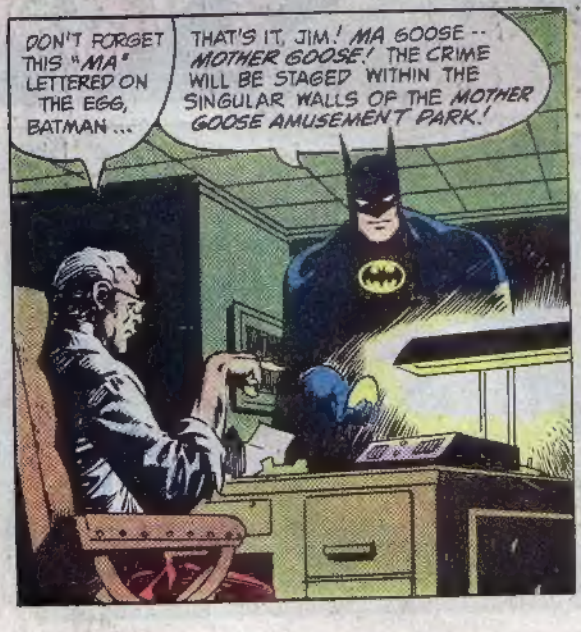

WONDERFUL, BATMAN.
SLAM!
YOU SHOULD ONLY KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE WANTED TO DO THAT MYSELF. IF HE DIDN'T HAVE THAT PHONY CHARGE AGAINST ME AFTER THE SAVAGE SKULL AFFAIR--
WORKING WITHOUT PAY DOES HAVE ITS ADVANTAGES, JIM.

NOW--WHAT CRYPTIC QUIZ HAS THE RIDDLER SENT US THIS TIME?
WELL, THE RIDDLE ITSELF SEEMS TO BE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE PUZZLE FOR A CHANGE. THIS GREETINGS TAG READS...
"WITHIN THESE SINGULAR WALLS YOU'LL FIND--THE DEVIOUS LOCATION OF MY NEXT CRIME."


NOTHING NEW IN THAT --MEANING THE REAL RIDDLE IS COMPRISED BY THE BOX'S CONTENTS.
YES--WITHIN THE "SINGULAR WALLS" OF THE BOX ITSELF.
I'VE HAD IT X-RAYED FOR EXPLOSIVES--SO I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO FIND WHAT WE MAY FIND...

A GOOSE EGG... PAINTED GOLD...
MA
THE "GOOSE THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGG"--OBVIOUSLY A METAPHOR FOR HIS INTENDED LOOT...

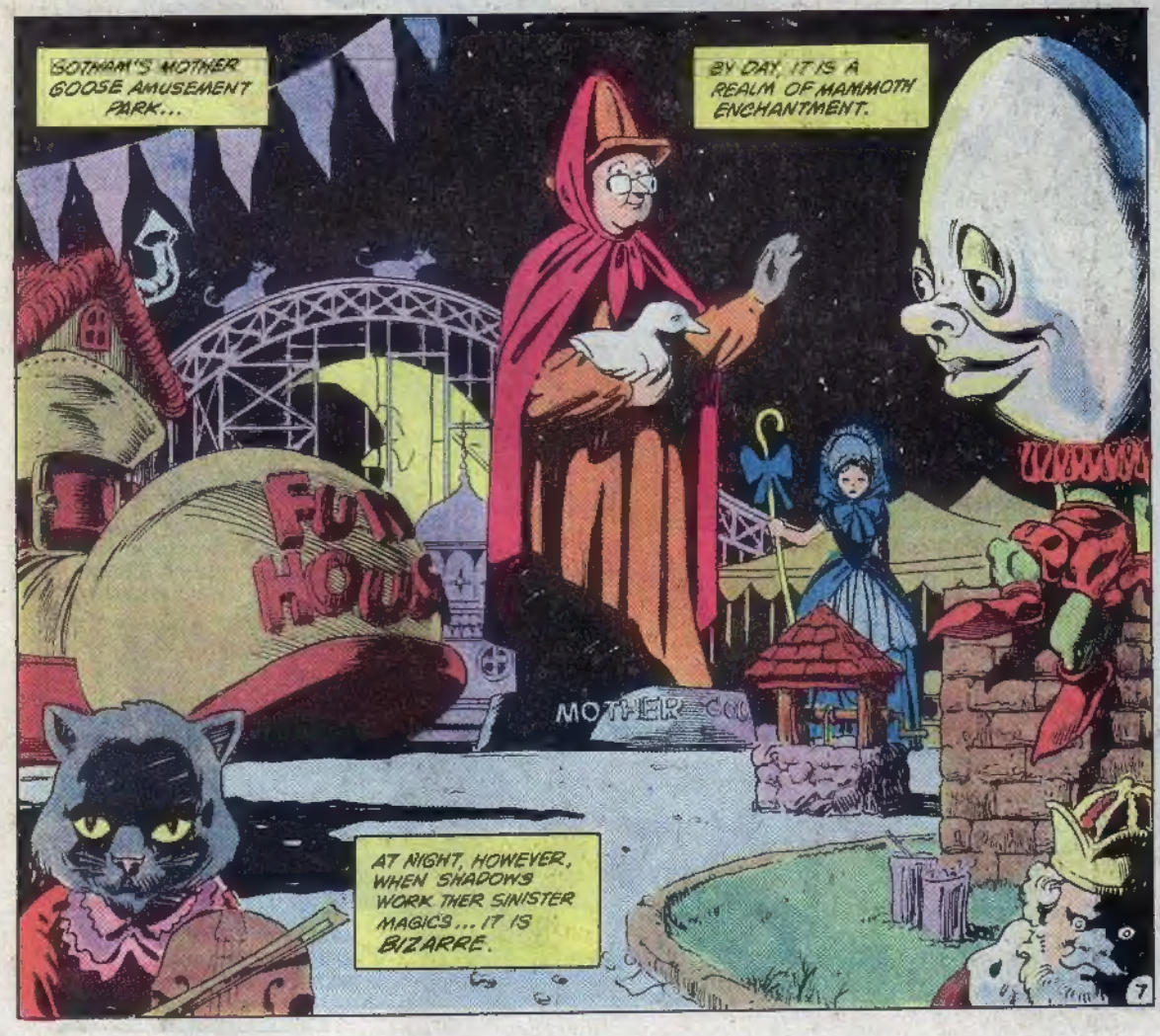
... AND THE TARGET OF THE CRIME MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH GEESE...
OR EGGS.
OR BOTH.


DON'T FORGET THIS "MA" LETTERED ON THE EGG, BATMAN...
THAT'S IT, JIM! MA GOOSE--MOTHER GOOSE! THE CRIME WILL BE STAGED WITHIN THE SINGULAR WALLS OF THE MOTHER GOOSE AMUSEMENT PARK!

A LITTLE TOO EASY, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES, I DO--AND I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THE REAL CLUE LIES IN A SINGLE, SPECIFIC MOTHER GOOSE NURSERY RHYME.
BUT WE CAN'T TAKE THE RISK OF NEGLECT...

YOU STAY HERE AND KEEP PUZZLING, JIM--CHECK FOR ANAGRAMS, CRYPTOGRAMS, EVERYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF...
...WHILE I GO BABYSIT THE AMUSEMENT PARK'S BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS.

IT IS TOO EASY--AND I'M GONNA OUTWIT THE BATMAN AN GORDON BOTH...
...BY OUTWITTING THE RIDDLER.


GOTHAM'S MOTHER GOOSE AMUSEMENT PARK...
BY DAY, IT IS A REALM OF MAMMOTH ENCHANTMENT.
FUN HOUSE
MOTHER GOO
AT NIGHT, HOWEVER, WHEN SHADOWS WORK THER SINISTER MAGICS... IT IS BIZARRE.
7

WITHIN ITS SINSULAR WALLS, ONE ADDITIONAL SHADOW IS HARDLY NOTICED...
...NOR EVEN INCONGRUOUS.
BUT WHEN THE SHADOW OF A MONSTROUS EGG BEGINS TO MOVE--
BUKSH
BRRRT
SINCE HUMPTY DUMPTY'S HAD SUCH A GREAT FALL, BATMAN--
--IT'S TIME FOR ME TO PLAY JACK-IN-THE-BOX!
OR AM I SCRAMBLING MY RIDDLES TOO MUCH?!
8
CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING

WHAT THE--?
TALK ABOUT SCRAMBLING...!
BRRRRT
HE'S FAST, ALL RIGHT, AND AS ELUSIVE AS THE NIGHT ITSELF.
I'LL GIVE HIM THAT MUCH...
BUT IF ANYONE CAN PUZZLE OUT HIS NEXT MOVE --
WAKT
BACK HERE, RIDDLER!
GUH-H!
9

SPROING!
BOOGA-BOOGA!
POP!
NOW HE'S PULLED A VANISHING TRICK!
BUT IF HE'S NOT HERE IN THE SHOE, WHERE COULD HE HAVE--
"BACK HERE," BATMAN!
AND A WORD OF ADVICE FROM MOTHER GOOSE: DON'T FOLLOW HUMPTY'S EXAMPLE WHEN YOU LAND!
HE DOESN'T--
--CLUTCHING A SHOELACE ON THE WAY DOWN.

WHEEEEEEEE!
IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER IN A LONG LINE OF STALEMATES, BATMAN.
AND WHEN THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE SWINGS TO THE GROUND...
HE'S RIGHT-- I'VE LOST HIM!
WHO'S THERE--?
THE BATMAN?!
HE SHRINKS FROM THE LIGHT..
MOVE YOUR FLASH.
OH--SURE. BUT WHAT WAS ALL THAT SHOOTING? SOUNDED LIKE A MACHINE GUN...
THE RIDDLER WAS HERE-- TO STEAL YOUR BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS.
HUH--? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BATMAN.
WHY?
BECAUSE THERE AIN'T NO BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS
IN FACT, THIS WHOLE PARK IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON.
WE WON'T OPEN TILL APRIL AND--
HUH?
HE'S GONE?

I GIVE UP--NO BANKS CONNECTED WITH GEESE... AND THERE ISN'T EVEN A GOLDEN GOOSE JEWELRY SHOP IN ALL OF GOTHAM..
MA
MAYBE IF I GET A CUP OF COFFEE...
NOW... WITH THE THE BATMAN AND GORDON BOTH OFF ON WILD GOOSE CHASES...
--LET'S SEE HOW A REAL COP FARES ON THIS CASE...
NONE TOO WELL, APPARENTLY.
HMMM... THIS AIN'T GONNA BE AS EASY AS I THOUGHT...
MA
BULLOCK! WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING--?
WHA--?!
OOPS
BUKSH
YOU OAFISH FOOL! NOW YOU'VE BROKEN THE EGG--!
HE'S DONE US A FAVOR, COMMISSIONER -
YEEPS! HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?!
- BY HATCHING A DEEPER PLOT.
THE FIRST PUZZLE WAS A BIG GOOSE EGG-- A ZERO— MERELY A RUSE FOR THE RIDDLER TO TAKE A CRACK AT RIDDLING ME WITH MACHINE GUN BULLETS...
12

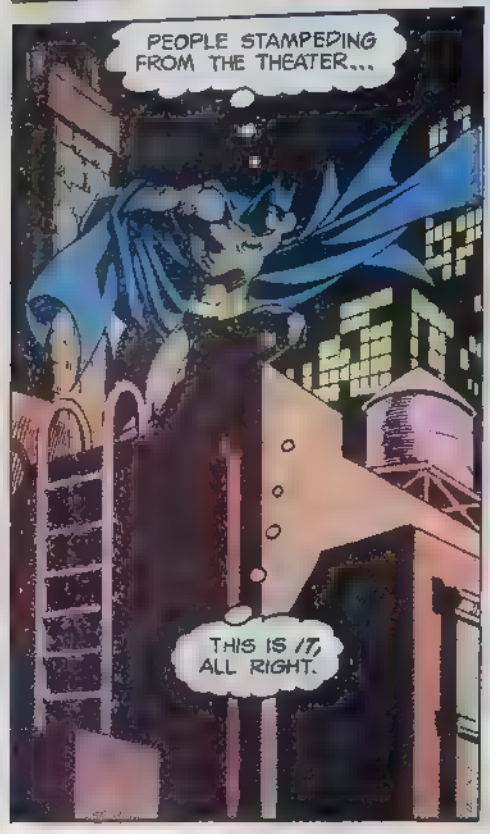
THE MEANING OF THE ORIGINAL RHYME WAS NOT ONLY WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE BOX, BUT WITHIN THE "SINGULAR WALLS" OF THE EGG ITSELF.
HUH--?
AN EGG HAS NO CORNERS-- AND THUS A SINGLE "WALL". HERE'S THE REAL RIDDLE, JIM ..
"WHEN RIDDLED BY THE RIDDLER YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS, MY PER-, PLEXING RHYME...
"WITH CONUNDRUM DARING AND REBUS FLAT THE ANSWER TO THIS RIDDLE QUITE PAT...
"A SACK OF LOOT SO VERY PEACHY FROM ROMA, VEN!, VIDI, VICI."
WH-WHAT'S A... "REBUS"--?
A PICTURE CRYPTOGRAM --THE EGG ITSELF WAS A THREE-DIMENSIONAL REBUS.
RIGHT, JIM-- AND I JUST FIGURED IT OUT...
IT WAS AN EGG LABLED "MA." AN EGG-MA-- ENIGMA.
THE RIDDLER'S REAL NAME, BATMAN!
RIGHT AGAIN... BUT IT PROBABLY REFERS TO SOMETHING ELSE AS WELL. KEEP IT IN MIND.
NOW--"WHEN RIDDLED BY THE RIDDLER YOU'LL FIND"-- WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF I HAD BEEN RIDDLED BY THE RIDDLER'S MACHINE GUN?
YOU'D BE DEAD.
IN HEAVEN, HOPEFULLY...

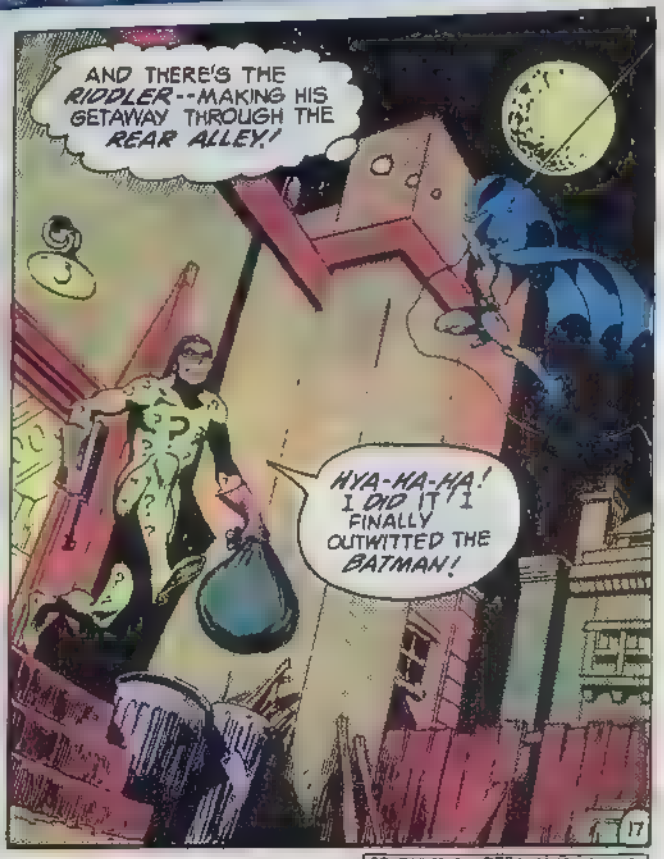
YOU'D BE IN PARADISE, BATMAN! THERE'S THE PARADISE THEATER -- AND IT'S ON PEACH STREET!
WHERE HE INTENDS TO STEAL 'A SACK OF LOOT SO VERY PEACHY."
"FROM ROMA, VENI, VIDI, VICI"! I CHECKED WITH THE PAROLE BOARD WHILE YOU WERE GONE -- NIGMA HELD A JOB WITH THE ROMA WINERY UPSTATE!
AND VENI, VIDI, VICI MEANS "I CAME, I SAW, I CONQUERED."
SLOW DOWN -- YOU GUYS ARE GOIN' TOO FAST
THE NEWSPAPER, JIM -- WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE PARADISE THEATER TONIGHT?
VIDI, BATMAN! THEY'RE VIDEO-TAPING A GAME SHOW -- A QUIZ SHOW -- AND IT'S CALLED ENIGMA!
FURNITURE SALE
HE'S OUT TO STEAL THE SHOW'S PRIZE LOOT!
THIS TIME WE'VE GOT IT, JIM -- I'M OFF!
PLAZA
I'LL FOLLOW IN MY CAR!
WHA--? HUH? WHA' THEY SAY? DID I MISS SOMETHIN'?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK MAYOR HILL?
AND HARVEY BULLOCK COLLAPSES, SEVERAL FUSES PERMANENTLY BLOWN
I AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE FOR A WHILE. THAT HEARING'S NEXT WEEK.
GOTTA SAVE WHAT WITS I GOT LEFT IF I WANNA DUPE GORDON OUT OF HIS JOB.
14

PEACH STREET...
OFF AT THIS STOP, DRIVER.
SAY, YOU LOOK FAMILIAR, PAL...
N GOTHAM
YOU A CONTESTANT ON THIS SCREWY GAME SHOW THEY RUN HERE?
I AM THE SHOW, "PAL" -- THE RIDDLER IS ALWAYS THE RIDDLE.
NOW TAPING ENIGMA AUDIENCE WELCOME
HEH HEH HEH.
I CAME, I SAW...
...AND NOW IT'S TIME TO CONQUER.
BATMAN THWARTED THE FIRST PART OF MY DOUBLE RIDDLE AND COULD WELL SHOW UP FOR THE PUNCHLINE -- BUT I'M NOT WORRIED...
...BECAUSE I ALWAYS RIG MY CRIMES FOR EVERY CONTINGENCY.
MY SECOND R.DDLING GUN...
...JUST WHERE I STASHED IT.
OKAY, JOE AND SUE, YOU'VE BOTH MADE IT SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH OUR FIRST ROUND OF RIDDLES.
NOW WE MOVE INTO THE SECOND ROUND. AND THE FIRST PLAYER TO MISS A RIDDLE DROPS OUT, WHILE THE REMAINING PLAYER GOES ON TO COMPETE FOR THE BIG LOOT
OKAY, SUE, LET'S START WITH YOU..
RIDDLE ME THIS: WHY IS THE LETTER "T" LIKE AN ISLAND?
UMM... LET ME SEE... THE LETTER "T"... LIKE AN ISLAND... HMMM...

BECAUSE IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF WATER!
THAT'S CORRECT!
NOW, JOE, IT'S YOUR TURN TO RIDDLE ME THIS...
WHAT COAT COMES WITHOUT POCKETS AND IS PUT ON WET?
I... LET ME SEE...
I CAN'T... MY MIND... IT... I'M SORRY... IT'S A BLANK...
BZZZZZT
AND WE'RE SORRY, JOE..
-- BUT YOUR TIME'S UP, AND THE ANSWER IS...
A COAT OF PAINT.
THE AUDIENCE GROANS.
OKAY, SUE, YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS...
OH MY GAWD.
YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO COMPETE IN THE SUPER-RIDDLE ROUND..
-- FOR THIS!
TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN COLD CASH, JEWELRY, AND OTHER ASSORTED PRIZES!
THE AUDIENCE CHEERS.
AND NOW I'LL JUST REACH INTO THE DRUM FOR YOUR SUPER-RIDDLE AND..
EH.. ? SOME-THING MOVING INSIDE THE DRUM...?
16

DON'T ANYONE PANIC-- THIS IS NOT PART OF THE SHOW-- JUST LET HIM TAKE WHAT HE WANTS! DON'T PANIC, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
SHEESH -- I'LL BET YOU EVEN USE HAM GREASE TO KEEP THAT TOUPEE STUCK ON.





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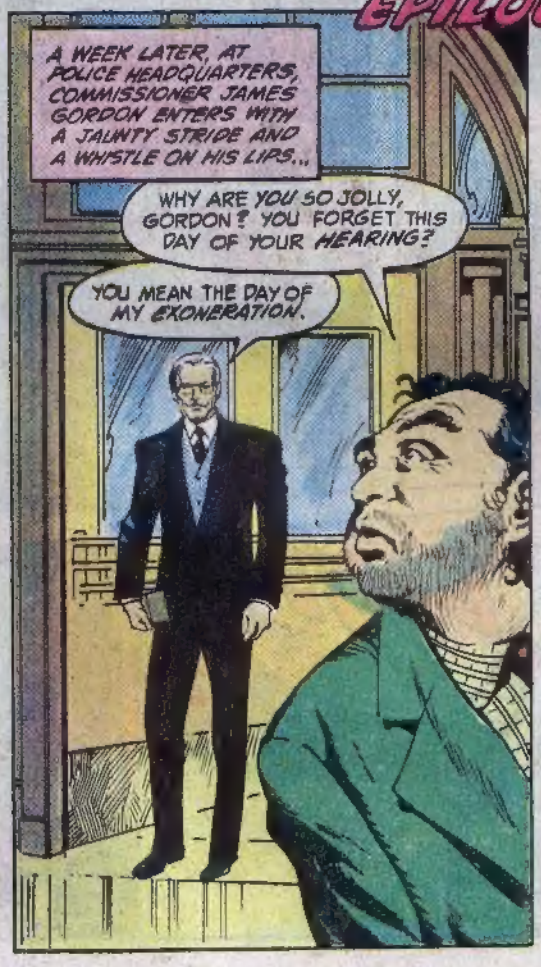
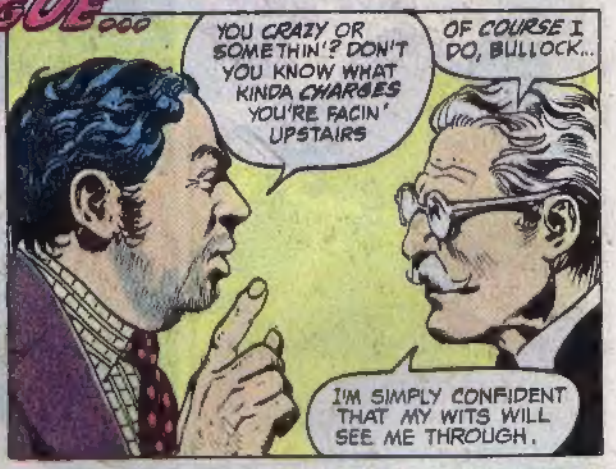
YOU SPOKE TOO SOON, RIDDLER!
AGAIN?!
AND HERE'S ONE FOR YOU -- WHAT CAN YOU PUT IN A SACK OF LOOT TO MAKE IT LIGHTER?
SHRRRP
A HOLE--!
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!
VERY WELL, BATMAN, YOU'VE FOILED MY CRIME -- BUT YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME! THIS RIDDLE STARTED WITH A REBUS, IT'S GOING TO END--
-- WHEN I RE-BUS FOR MY ESCAPE!
BRRRT
BATMAN -- I'M IN THE UNMARKED CAR UP HERE!
RECOVER THE SPILLED LOOT, OFFICER -- I'LL GO WITH GORDON!
SKREEEE
HE'S ON THAT BUS, JIM -- AFTER IT!
I'VE GOT A FULL TANK AND A HEAVY FOOT, OLD FRIEND...
JUMP ABOARD!

STEP ON IT, DRIVER, OR YOUR PASSENGERS GET OFF EARLY...
...AT THE LAST STOP BEFORE THE GRAVE!
PACE THE BUS, JIM.!
BUT BE CAREFUL-- HE'S GOT ANOTHER MACHINE GUN!
BRRRRT
MADE IT--
...AND SINCE ANOTHER WORD FOR SIEVE IS "RIDDLE"...WHY NOT?
-- BUT NOW HE'S SHOOTING UP THROUGH THE ROOF-- MAKING A SIEVE OF IT...
ESPECIALLY SINCE THESE GAS-PELLETS ARE SMALL ENOUGH --
19

--TO SIFT THROUGH THE RIDDLE...
KE SIDE
PHOOOM!
GETTING GROGGY...
STOP THE BUS, DRIVER--BEFORE WE ALL PASS OUT!
KOFF KOFF HAK
AGH KAFF
WITH PLEASURE.
NOTEL
P-DN
LAKE SIDE
SCREEEECH
BOOT
20

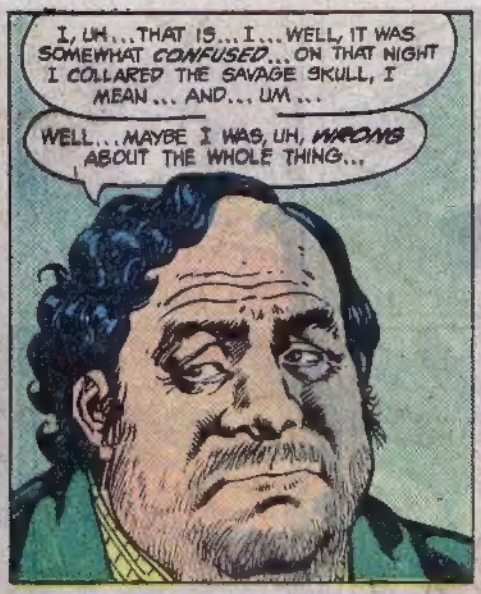
EPILOGUE


A WEEK LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON ENTERS WITH A JAUNTY STRIDE AND A WHISTLE ON HIS LIPS...
WHY ARE YOU SO JOLLY, GORDON? YOU FORGET THIS DAY OF YOUR HEARING?
YOU MEAN THE DAY OF MY EXONERATION.


YOU CRAZY OR SOMETHIN'? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT KINDA CHARGES YOU'RE FACIN' UPSTAIRS
OF COURSE I DO, BULLOCK...
I'M SIMPLY CONFIDENT THAT MY WITS WILL SEE ME THROUGH.

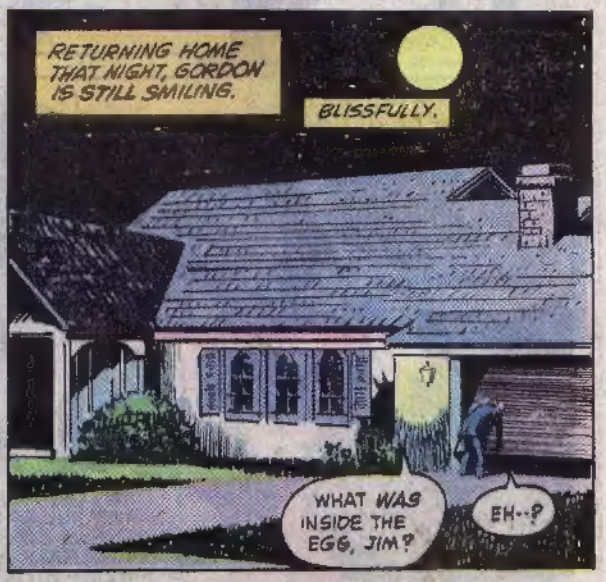
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

WELL, GUESS I'LL GO UP TO THE HEARINGS. SEE YOU IN A FEW MINUTES, EH BULLOCK?
HUH? OH... YEAH... YEAH, SURE.
KNOW THAT THE OBJECT ENCLOSED IS NOT FROM GOOSE BUT CHICKEN, IF YOU'D CARE TO LEAVE THE HEARING ALIVE AND KICKIN'
BULLOCK
BURSH
THIS IS OLIVIA ORTEGA FOR SPOTLIGHT NEWS AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS. THE CHARGES AGAINST COMMISSIONER GORDON HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, BUT INFORMED SOURCES HAVE LEAKED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION...
CONFE
THE COMMISSIONER'S NEW ASSISTANT, HARVEY BULLOCK--ENTERING THE HEARING EVEN NOW--IS EXPECTED TO CHARGE THAT JAMES GORDON WILLFULLY INTERFERED WITH THE APPREHENSION OF THE COP-KILLER KNOWN AS THE SAVAGE SKULL.
"A CHARGE OF THIS MAGNITUDE, OF COURSE, DOES NOT OCCUR EVERY DAY, NOR DOES MAYOR HAMILTON HILL NORMALLY ATTEND SUCH HEARINGS PERSONALLY..."
ALL RIGHT, SHALL WE GET THIS HEARING UNDERWAY?
LT. BULLOCK, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A STATEMENT TO MAKE--CHARGES TO LEVEL AGAINST COMMISSIONER GORDON?

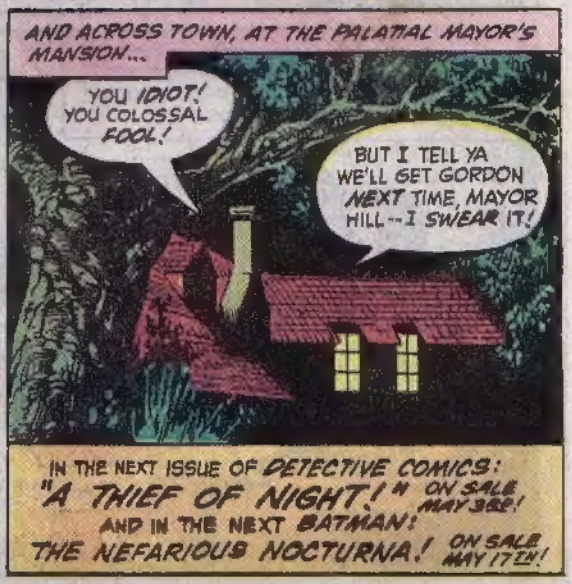

I, UH... THAT IS... I... WELL, IT WAS SOMEWHAT CONFUSED... ON THAT NIGHT I COLLARED THE SAVAGE SKULL, I MEAN... AND... UM...
WELL... MAYBE I WAS, UH, WRONG ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...

AND, UH, I GUESS I GOT NOTHIN' FURTHER TO SAY...
WHAT?! YOU FOOL! YOU'RE DROPPING THE CHARGES--?!
UH, YEAH, MAYOR... I... I GUESS I AM.

GORDON RISES, SMILING SWEETLY.
A PITY OUR TIME HAD TO BE WASTED, GENTLEMEN.
THIS HEARING IS CONCLUDED.


RETURNING HOME THAT NIGHT, GORDON IS STILL SMILING.
BLISSFULLY.
WHAT WAS INSIDE THE EGG, JIM?
EH--?

OH--BATMAN.
A PIECE OF SWISS CHEESE--RIDDLED WITH HOLES.
TO A DULL RAT LIKE BULLOCK... IT COULD HAVE MEANT ANYTHING.


AND ACROSS TOWN, AT THE PALATIAL MAYOR'S MANSION...
YOU IDIOT! YOU COLOSSAL FOOL!
BUT I TELL YA WE'LL GET GORDON NEXT TIME, MAYOR HILL--I SWEAR IT!
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS: "A THIEF OF NIGHT!" ON SALE MAY 3RD!
AND IN THE NEXT BATMAN! THE NEFARIOUS NOCTURNA! ON SALE MAY 17TH!